

The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at Seabrook City Hall, 1700 First Street, Seabrook, Texas to discuss and if appropriate, take action on the agenda items listed below.

THOSE PRESENT WERE:

Helen Burton	Chair
Sally Antrobus	Vice-Chair
John Coggeshall	Member
Monica Comeaux	Member
Debra Harper	Member
Karen Tisdell	Member
Meredith Brant	Assistant City Secretary

1.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

2.0 BUSINESS

2.1 Consider updates on the previously discussed items:

Ms. Burton gave an update on the following:

- **Installation of a Little Free Library** – The little library has been built and once a site near the pool has been determined by staff it will be installed.
- **Planting along trail in Robinson Park** – The trail planting is complete. Ms. Tisdell stated that she can provide clumping bamboo along the trail also. Ms. Burton suggested that members take a look at it and consult with Mr. Chairez.
- **Planting along the north boundary of Carothers** – Oleanders will be planted to intermingle with the bay trees. Once completed, Ms. Antrobus will move the irises to the front of the oleanders.
- **Planting at Pine Gully** – Cord grass has been planted at Pine Gully.
- **Clean-up day at Carothers property** – Ms. Burton reported that it was a successful clean-up day. Community Service workers will be working on a list of remaining tasks provided by Ms. Burton. Ms. Harper suggested that plants in pots be added for color.

2.2 Report on the parks volunteer program.

Ms. Burton stated that there had only been one initial volunteer contact, but no follow-up from the potential volunteer, in response to the flier soliciting volunteers. She added that Tara (a volunteer) is doing a great job at Friendship Park.

2.3 Consider installation of signs/markers for parks and trails.

Ms. Comeaux stated that directional and mileage markers along the trails are invaluable to runners and suggested that the city consider installing them. There was also some discussion regarding GPS apps, QR codes and emergency call boxes. Ms. Comeaux stated that should look into the cost of call boxes.

Ms. Burton asked that Item 2.4 be delayed until Paul Chavez, Economic Development Director arrives.

2.5 Consider parking lot improvements for Baybrook Park.

After determining that expansion of the parking lot was not likely, members considered planting along the perimeter of the parking lot. Ms. Harper stated that she believed by marking the parking spaces with bricks, more spaces could be created. Ms. Burton stated that a determination should be made of what needs to be done then brought back to the next meeting.

2.6 Report on Trash Bash.

Mr. Coggeshall announced that Trash Bash will be held on Saturday, March 29 at 8:00 a.m. with workers meeting on the parking lot of Bay Elementary School. He added that volunteers from Clear Creek Community Church will be coming to work the Trash Bash as well as volunteer in the parks. Ms. Burton stated that they will be planting wildflower seeds in Pine Gully, Miramar, Meador and Robinson Parks as well as the planter on SH 146 .

2.7 Identify grant sources to benefit parks and trails.

Ms. Burton stated that she had found a great source of foundation information in a book entitled *Foundation* Directory at the Freeman Library. She added that Bloch Cancer Foundation gives to parks in Texas and other sources of grants can be found at www.grants.gov (federal grants). Ms. Burton suggested that park signs could possibly be funded through a grant from Dow.

2.8 Consider work day on Saturday, March 29 for volunteers from Clear Creek Community Church.

Discussed above in Item 2.6.

3.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS

3.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.

Ms. Tisdell announced that the dredging of Pine Gully has begun. Mr. Coggeshall requested everyone check their assigned parks prior to the Lucky Trail Marathon on the 15th and 16th.

3.2 Approve the minutes of the February 6, 2014 meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Antrobus and seconded by Ms. Tisdell

To approve the minutes as written.

3.3 Consider Action Items Checklist which is attached and made a part of this agenda.

Item 2 – Mr. Coggeshall stated that it would be after April when he speaks to Mr. Padgett concerning the trail under the power lines.

Item 6 – Dredging has begun at Pine Gully.

Item 13 – This item was discussed at this meeting.

Mr. Chavez, who was instrumental in getting the Dow grant, arrived at 6:30 p.m.

2.4 Consider recognition of parks volunteers.

Mr. Chavez stated that engraving the leaves of the Eco Star Award tree is a great way to recognize volunteers.

The criteria for the award was discussed. Ms. Burton stated that she would discuss with the City Manager whether employees should be considered. Members had suggested that Paul Chavez (for facilitating the Dow grant) and Employees of the Parks Department (for their continued excellence in care of the parks and trails) should be considered.

Mr. Chavez stated that he would contact Dow to determine whether individual employees of the company can be recognized or if recognition is for the company only.

Motion was made by Ms. Harper and seconded by Ms. Antrobus

To approve criteria for volunteers not previously recognized as follows: Substantial contribution of funds, volunteer effort and/or installations that enhance Seabrook's parks, trails and open space.

MOTION CARRIES BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.


3.4 Consider upcoming meeting dates and agenda items.

The next meeting will be April 3.

Upon a motion, made and seconded, Chair Burton adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Approved this 3rd day of April, 2014.


Helen Burton, Chair


Meredith Brant, TRMC
Assistant City Secretary